



NEWS RELEASE

05-099

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2005
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Route 138 Work Progress and Escort Hour Extension

Crestline - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is making progress on State Route 138 between Junction 18/138 and Crest Forest Drive on repairs to the damaged roadway from recent storms. Paving and striping will take place through Sunday, March 13, 2005 and additional restoration will continue until Friday March 18. **Beginning Wednesday morning, March 16th escort hours will be extended.** The new hours are 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The new escort schedule will remain in effect until Caltrans has located a contractor to complete the demolition of the upper slope on SR-138.

The upper slope has been a focus for Caltrans since the beginning of January 2005 due to a large crevice, which is located approximately halfway through the closure limits. The fissure is located about 350 feet up the slope, measures 150 wide and over 4 feet deep. A Caltrans geologist discovered the crevice after the initial rock and mudslide closed the route. Caltrans has continued to monitor this section of the slope while doing other repairs to three sections of SR-138 within the closure limits, where sections of the roadbed fell away due to slope erosion.

In order to reopen the roadway, Caltrans must remove the upper slope. Several methods have been discussed and Caltrans engineers have decided to use explosives to remove the slope. They are now dedicated to locating a contractor that will complete the demolition. The new escort schedule will remain in effect until the actual removal of the slope begins. Changes to the escort hours and closures of this route during the slope removal are expected, and will be determined when the contractor is secured.

All work and escort schedules are subject to weather and can be canceled without advance notice. Escorts will continue to meet at Jct. 18/138 for upbound traffic and at Crest Forest Drive for downbound traffic. Please remember not to block the Fire Station driveway on Crest Forest Drive. The mountain community's patience and understanding during this process have been greatly appreciated.

SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE – your life or the life of another may depend on it!

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